

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A user interface for visually configuring a video call, the user interface comprising:

5 a video call configuration window having plural icons, each icon representing a video device; and  
a directed graph relating the icons to represent the configuration of the video devices in the video call;  
wherein the directed graph relates compatible video devices and prohibits invalid video call configurations.

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2. The user interface of Claim 1 further comprising a video device dialog box operable to add one or more video device types to the video call configuration window.

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3. The user interface of Claim 2 wherein selection of a video device type from the video device dialog box is operable to depict a library of available video devices of the selected video device type.

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4. The user interface of Claim 2 wherein addition of a video device type to a video call implicates one or more additional video devices to establish a valid video call configuration, the user interface further comprising  
25 a dialog box that identifies video devices needed for a valid video call configuration.

5. The user interface of Claim 1 wherein the directed graph depicts one or more parameters for one or  
30 more of the video devices of the video call configuration.

6. The user interface of Claim 5 wherein a parameter comprises the line speed of the video device associated with the directed graph.

5 7. The user interface of Claim 5 wherein a parameter comprises the protocol of the video device associated with the directed graph.

10 8. The user interface of Claim 5 wherein a parameter comprises the identification of the video device that initiates communication with one or more other video devices.

15 9. The user interface of Claim 1 wherein the directed graph is operable to monitor a video call having the video call configuration by depicting changes in the state of the video call.

20 10. The user interface of Claim 9 wherein changes in the state of the video call comprise failure of a video device.

25 11. The user interface of Claim 10 wherein failure of a video device is depicted with a red color.

30 12. The user interface of Claim 1 further comprising a device list window associated with the video call configuration window, the device list window listing attributes of the video devices represented by the plural icons.

13. A method for visually configuring a video call with a computer user interface, the method comprising:

selecting a first video device for display as a first graphic by the user interface;

5 selecting a second video device for display as a second graphic by the user interface;

selecting the first graphic to initiate a directed graph arrow originating from the first graphic; and

10 selecting the second graphic to draw the directed graph arrow from the first graphic to the second graphic representing a video call between the first and second video devices.

14. The method of Claim 13 further comprising:

15 determining if a video call between the first and second video devices is a valid action; and

prohibiting the drawing of a directed graph arrow between the first and second graphics unless the video call between the first and second video devices is a  
20 valid action.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein a video call between the first and second video devices requires configuration through a third video device, the method  
25 further comprising:

determining that a video call configuration for a video call between the first and second video devices requires a third video device; and

30 presenting a graphic associated with the third video device to allow a valid video configuration using the third video device.

16. The method of Claim 13 further comprising:  
scheduling a video call according to the video call  
configuration.

5 17. The method of Claim 13 further comprising:  
initiating a video call according to the video call  
configuration.

10 18. The method of Claim 17 further comprising:  
monitoring the video devices of the initiated video  
call; and  
depicting the state of the monitored video devices  
through the user interface.

19. A video network comprising:  
plural video devices;  
a video network platform in communication with the  
plural video devices;

5 a user interface control associated with the video  
network platform and operable to depict the video devices  
as graphical icons having a video call configuration  
represented by a directed graph.

10 20. The video network of Claim 19 wherein the user  
interface control is further operable to determine the  
validity of a video call configuration.

15 21. The video network of Claim 19 wherein the user  
interface is further operable to direct the video network  
platform to initiate a video call according to the video  
call configuration.

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